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The Long Island FLOUNDERMAN

The Diffe ...hing Fish!

APRIL 17th, 1975, ISSUE NO. 14

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GAFF-SHEATH INFO

Last week, Mr. Daly of New Hyde Park asked about gaff protection. I responded with an appeal to the unknown (by me) manufacturer of one we used last year. Here is the address requested: Mr. Philip Malvagno, Sea Gull Products, 78-33 65th Street, Glendale, N.Y. 11227. Write to Phil for info. (P.S. This is a new address.) G.V.

THE YEAR OF THE PLUG

Just a line to let you know that "the Professor" knows his plugs. I was impressed enough with his articles to make a few dozen; can't wait to try them out.

The accompanying photo shows me with a sample of the fruits of my labors. *Whiting Evans, Amityville.*

TO START A FISHING CLUB

Re: Issue #5, Feb. 13, 1975. On page #8, "Starting a Fishing Club," request by Mr. Ray Bromley of L.I. City.

Enclosed herewith is a photo copy of a 10-page booklet I have had for about 25 years, put out by Outdoor Life magazine, offices in New York City.

I looked in the 1974-75 'Phone book, but did not find Mr. Bromley's name listed. I would suggest that he get in touch with them.

For his information, I might say that I have been fishing for a good number of years and have been a member of three fishing clubs.

If I can be of any further service to him, please have him get in touch with me. *William H. Henlotter, Bronx, N.Y.*

I checked with Lee Gorray and Logan Geeslin of Outdoor Life. They went through their files and advised me that this pamplet is no longer available. They recommended contacting the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturer's Association (AFTMA), which I did. No luck there.

Additional correspondence from Lee suggested readers contact the NRA or the National Shooting Sports Foundation for their booklets on how to start hunting (or sportsmen's) clubs. Addresses are: NRA, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. NSSFI, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, Connecticut 06878. My thanks to the ladies from O.L. for helping me out. G.V.

SHAME—LIF CAUGHT IN ERROR!

We are writing in reference to Dick Mermon's article in the February 6th issue of the *Long Island Fisherman*, "The February Striper Nut."

We think that Mr. Mermon could be helped if he was to read your article on keeping a fish diary with a strong emphasis on accuracy.

We have been fishing LILCO for four years and have found that sand worms are most productive for bass than anything else. On a good day at this time of year, we would be very happy with five keepers. But Mr. Mermon's article will attract all the "Sunday" fisherman who plan on catching dinner and keeping "shorts."

Furthermore, if you are familiar with the LILCO plant you would realize that there is no fresh water. The water is brought into the plant west of the spillway where the boat ramps are located, and is brought through the turbine and discharged into what is known as the Oyster Farms. Maybe in your next issue you could explain how oysters are propogated in fresh water or "brackish", as you call it. Maybe you could also explain where all this fresh water comes from? Possibly you could arrange a tour through the LILCO plant and ask them some questions?

Other than this article, we find your magazine thoroughly enjoyable and most of the time extremely helpful. Than you for the magazine. *Don Archer and Bob Costarella, East Northport, N.Y.*

Dick Mermon responds: *You have some sharp readers and I have to apoligize for my error. The LILCO plant, in Northport, uses the salt water to cool the turbines, not the fresh water as I indicated. Since the article was written two years ago, I only recently learned of the water. Again, I do apologize, for I surmised it to be fresh water, as there is a small pond above the plant.*

I bow to the two fishermen from E. Northport, but I feel that the Long Island Fisherman *is a publication that reports to its readers the information they want to read about and that is, "where to, when to, and*

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, Number 14 April 17th, 1975

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From the Editor's Head

It must be hard to obtain statistics on the number of salt water anglers; or perhaps no one really cares, because without an accurate data base to rely on, anybody can make a "swag" (scientific wild-ass guess) about any facet of the sport and have some sort of chance of being right. At least, lack of solid information, called "facts" in some circles, provides food for conservation and argument; certainly, heated discussion is probable.

That's all changed now. The National Marine Fisheries Service of (NOAA) has released "Current Fisheries Statistics 6236," which is modestly titled *Participation in Marine Recreational Fishing, Northeastern United States, 1973-74.* Now we know how many of you there are, and where you do your fishing—on a state basis, anyway.

Did you know that, in the states between Maine and Virginia - West Virginia, there is a total of almost five million fishing households containing almost 11 million individuals that fished or shell-fished at least once during the 12 months prior to the date of the survey, June 1974? This is an increase of almost 7½ million anglers since the *"1970 Salt-Water Angling Survey"* (Current Fishery Statistics No. 6200). Part of this increase is attributable to modified study parameters. Included in the latest study, but not the one in 1970, were: children under 12, persons who fished at least once during the year, and shellfishing. Although an increase due to total increased participation in the sport was mentioned, the exact—or even an approximate—figure was not determined. This is unfortunate because we are unable to know how much growth in angling population our waters were subjected to, and it becomes impossible to make any valid, accurate projections of future angling pressure.

However, the statistics are, in themselves, interesting. For example, this state has the highest numbers of marine fishermen, followed by Massachusetts, which has about half our number. There are now estimated to be 1,360,000 marine fishing households in New York State, with 2,980,000 fin-or shellfishermen. But where do these anglers pursue fin and shell?

To answer that question, another table of figures indicates the areas fished by New Yorkers (and the residents of the other states covered in the survey). It turns out that most of you fellows (2,290,000 individuals) fish in the marine waters of your own state. There are also 344,000 fishermen from the other northeastern states fishing here, with New Jersey contributing the most at 162,000, followed by Connecticut, with Maryland and Virginia tied for third place. Massachusetts sent us only 11,000 anglers during 1973-74; that was good for fourth place.

New Yorkers were real gadabouts; they went all over to pursue their piscatorial lusts. (Okay. I'll be honest and include "shellfishing lusts" as well, though I can't envision any of you characters going to Mexico to get the makings for a clambake.) A half-million traveling Empire-Staters wet a line in Florida—why else go there?—and 271,000 fished in Massachusetts. We returned New Jersey's gift of anglers with one of our own—300,000 strong! As a matter of fact, New Yorkers fished in every area mentioned as "being fished in" in the study: the entire east coast, by state; the Gulf of Mexico states; the Pacific Coast; Mexico and the Caribbean Islands; and Canada.

One problem I did have was with my own recollection of sixth-grade geography: I didn't realize that the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania had marine angling or shellfishing. Live and learn.

Another summary of information, Table 2 of the study, indicates the number of households participating in marine recreational activities—swimming, sailing, pleasure boating, fin and shellfishing, and beachcombing.You may be interested to know that New York is also *numero uno* in swimming and beachcombing; in fact, in all categories listed. Keep in mind we also have the greatest total population, by far, so we would have to know the latest census figures in order to rank the states.

We can assume, validly, I think, that over 95% of the marine activities in our state occur on Long Island; no doubt that we are living in one of the finest fishing and other recreation areas in the world. We can also assume pressure on this resource to be fairly heavy, if the study figures are correct. This obviously means that all persons, interested not only in fishing, but boating, swimming, beachcombing, etc., as well, have a mighty powerful interest in keeping abreast of the problems facing Long Island as a

(*Continued on page 25.*)

how to". Secret spots are no longer secrets and even the "Sunday" fishermen and fisherwomen are entitled to this information. The lucky ones are the weekday fisher-people like myself and a few others.

As for keeping records, my desk drawer is full, so I stopped. Just how much can be kept in a lifetime of fishing?

The reason for not mentioning the use of worms as bait for the area is that many of the tackle dealers do not stock worms at this time of year, but they sure have a lot of lures left over and the ones mentioned catch the fish. Granted, worms are the best for the area.

Once again I wish to apologize, but we are all humans and do make mistakes at times.

G.V. Responds: *I can't let Dick take the brunt, especially since it's my job to see that errors do not appear in* The Fisherman. *I accept responsibility for the fresh water—salt water confusion; I know better.*

I agree with Dick when he states what this magazine is attempting to do for the readers. They are the reason for our existence, and they will be advised of the "hot spots" as we learn of them. I'm sorry you feel this particular area is your domain, and that we have unleashed hordes of "Sunday fishermen" to ruin your secret location. It's really not much of a secret, and I seriously doubt your fishing will be ruined.

One last comment: "Sunday fishermen" are not the only ones to keep "shorts." I've seen small bass kept by anglers everywhere I've fished; from boats and from the beach. No comprehensive study I've ever seen has shown "regulars" to be more honest and above-board than anyone else.

CONTESTS & TOURNAMENTS

WEAKFISH CONTEST

The South Shore Marlin & Tuna Club is holding a weakfish contest Sunday, May 25th with a $500 first prize for the largest weakfish caught. This contest is open to any of those who want to enter. Area of fishing will be between Jones Inlet to the west and Shinnecock Inlet to the east (on the south shore and bays only). Entry fee is $2 per angler and tickets will be available at most tackle shops. Weigh-in stations will be located throughout the Island.

6th ANNUAL HUDSON RIVER STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT

The Hudson River Fisherman's Association announced plans for the 6th Annual Striped Bass Tournament, scheduled to begin on April 26th and run through May 26th.

Tournament Chairman George Chapman said, "Each year the Tournament increases in popularity and we expect many more entrants for this season. April and May are the ideal times to fish the Hudson and some big bass will be weighed-in. Last year's winner was a 26 lb. striper taken off Cornwall, but the largest fish ever taken during the Tournament was a 38-pounder from Crawbuckie Beach in 1973."

According to George, top prize is a one-day charter aboard Capt. Fred Gallagher's "KERRITIM". Fred is one of the famous Cuttyhunk bass men. The prize includes a stay at a motel the night before the trip. Capt. Gallagher is well known for the big stripers he catches each year on live bunker.

Second prize is a garcia Oxygen Temperature Probe, a scientific

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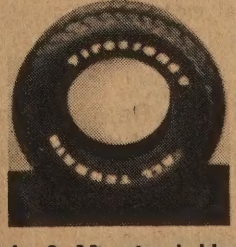

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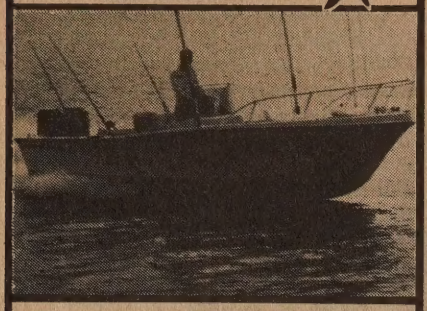

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Third prize is a Fenwick spinning rod and matching Daiwa 2500C reel. Other prizes include rods and reels, tackle boxes and accessories.

Entry fee will be $3.00 for adults and $1.00 for juniors, and includes a special Tournament patch and the "Hudson River Guide Book" listing launch ramps and tackle shops, and containing maps of the fishing areas. All proceeds collected go towards protecting the striped bass spawning and nursery grounds on the Hudson. Past Tournaments have raised over $2000.00 in the fight to protect the striped bass fishery.

For additional information or to register by mail, write to George Chapman, HRFA Tournament Chairman, 290 Delano Pl., Fairview, N.J. 07022.

News Releases

SPECIAL OFFER TO ORGANIZED CLUBS

The American Littoral Society, in its 10th year of fact-gathering for American sportsmen on their favorite fish, has come up with a membership/tagging program tailored for clubs with interested members.

Your club can become a 20/20 member of the Society. Your $20 will provide the club with a full year's membership in the Littoral Society and 20 tags to begin your club's first fish tagging program in your home waters, aimed at the species you want the most information about.

Of particular interest to the Society and the marine scientists who receive all Society tagging data is information on large stripers, fluke, and weakfish, but clubs can tag any fish they want.

The Society publishes all tag returns. Tagged fish have been at liberty 50 months between catches; others have traveled from Maine to Chesapeake Bay. All this information is valuable to marine biologists; all of it is provided by sportfishermen.

Fish tagging is only one Littoral Society activity, which is also concerned with coastal land use, water pollution, beach access, and the 200-mile limit. You club's membership will help support all the Society's conservation efforts. To join the Society and its fish tagging program, contact: Membership Secretary; American Littoral Society, Highlands, N.J. 07732.

REMINDER: ATLANTIC COALITION MEETING

Date: Thursday, April 17, 1975
Place: Room 238, Hofstra Law School
Time: 8 PM
Speaker: Mr. Thomas Donegan, Marketing Director of the Union Carbide Corporation
Topic: The PUROX Process

Mr. Donegan's presentation will include slides along with a discussion of technical details of the PUROX process. This is essentially a method of combining a mixture of sludge and garbage to be converted to commercial fuel gas. A question-answer period will follow at the end of the presentation.

Please inform your friends and acquaintances of this meeting.

MECLI EXTENDS AN INVITATION

All are invited to celebrate Earth Week (April 13-19) with the Malverne Environmental Council on April 13, from 1-4 p.m., behind the Malverne Theatre.

MECLI will participate in the event by displaying its activities in the protection of the marine environment. Other events include puppet shows by the Htudglud Players, displays from the Malverne schools depicting ecology projects and field trips, tours on a recycling process and other special activities. Spend this special Sunday with your family with MECLI and the Malverne Schools.

MARINE EDUCATION MEETING

New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) invites all to their first meeting to be held on Saturday, May 17, 1975, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Islip Arts Building, Suffolk County Community College, Selden, Long Island. The agenda includes related curriculum material, activities, training..., to coordinate efforts in New York to further marine education. WANT MORE INFORMATION? Call: Richard Raymond (212) 685-5081.

KELLY OF NYSDEC TO SPEAK ON OCEAN POLLUTION AT SEAFORD H.S.

Will ocean dumping of sewage sludge and industrial waste make it necessary to close South Shore beaches within the next five years? Is the "black mayonnaise" now being found on or near these beaches an omen of greater pollution of our bays and wetlands? If oil is accidentally spilled in the ocean off Long Island, will it act as an incubator for harmful micro-organisms capable of spreading hepatitis and other diseases?

These and other controversial questions will be among those discusssed when Larry Kelly, Director of Community Relations for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, speaks at Seaford Senior High School on Wednesday evening, April 23, at 8 P.M. Mr. Kelly's talk ("The Marine

Environment and Its Values") is being sponsored by the Seaford Council of PTA's as part of National Environmental Awareness Week (April 19-26).

Mr. Kelly's presentation and the subsequent question-and-answer session will constitute a program of interest for all groups, since it is concerned with a major natural resource of Long Island. The public is cordially invited to attend; there will be no admission charge. George H. Wilde, President of the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, will act as master of ceremonies. Mr. Wilde was founder and president of Save Our Bays Association and is a leading Long Island environmentalist in his new capacity as chief executive of MECLI.

As a result of an intensive publicity campaign jointly backed by the Seaford Council of PTA's and MECLI, concerned adults, elementary school pupils, and high school and college students are now working on various projects designed to make Long Island residents more aware of the marine environment, its values, and the man-made hazards that currently threaten to upset key ecological processes.

Kindergarten children are making collages that reveal their interest in the preservation of fish and birds; art students are creating posters that highlight the ecological problems posed by industrial waster and sludge that has been dumped in various parts of the Atlantic near the L.I. shore for more than fifty years. The heavy metals content of these long-polluted ocean waters, plus the possible hazards created by oil spills, supertanker collisions, or effluent leaks from outfall pipelines in the bays or near the beaches are obviously the major worries of the students who are science majors. Some English compositions written in recent weeks deal with the values of the marine environment with an intelligence and sensitivity that indicate their authors' familiarity with the pioneering ecological awareness fostered by Rachel Carson's two major books—The Sea Around Us and Silent Spring. Other students are contributing passages from the works of Walt Whitman, Christopher Morley, and other writers who have praised the natural resources and beauties of Long Island.

The varied contributions of these interested adults and students will be on exhibit at Seaford Senior High School on the evening of the meeting (Wednesday, April 23) and at neighborhood libraries in the weeks that follow.

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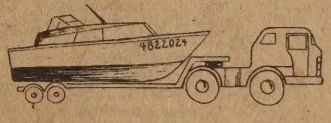

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DIVING

SKIN AND SCUBA SAFETY PART TWO

with John Fennimore

You're snorkeling off a cluster of rocks in water about 20 feet deep. Spotting a big fish, you follow and he leads you to the other side of the rocks. There you notice a slight current, but decide to continue. The fish disappears, and you find yourself about 100 yards from the rocks. Swimming back seems unusually tedious, and you find that you must make several course adjustments. Suddenly, you feel yourself being dragged out by the current. You're only 25 yards away from the rocks, so a last lunge is attempted. This fails and, now tired, you resign yourself to the facts. So just lay back and let the current do its worst. Any further attempt to battle the current will just exhaust you.

The conditions aren't so favorable any more. The water is rough, so you decide to inflate your vest. This action could be a disaster instead of a safety precaution. If the straps on the vest are tangled or are too tight, the inflated vest will be pressing hard against your chest: chest expansion is now impossible, and breathing is extremely shallow. If panic sets in, a choking diver may be forced to stab his vest in order to breathe. Practicing with the vest inflated, and marking the straps for correct adjustment, alleviates this problem.

The vest is now inflated, and you're about 200 yards out. When you get your second wind, begin swimming back. Swimming against the current is futile. It is easier to swim diagonally with the current. In this way you will shortly be out of the current, and then you can change your course for shore.

Now let's look at a similar situation, but this time with scuba equipment. I'm tired of using all those "you's" and "yours" in my article, so this time I'm going to name the "you".

Mike Nelleyson is scuba diving around a clump of rocks. He spies a large bass, and is in "HOT pursuit". Suddenly he finds that he only has about 600 psi. left. "Mickey of the Sea" turns around and starts back, but finds his trip unusually laborious. He surfaces, and is hit with the stark fact that he is caught in a rip. Mike then makes that last attempt for the rocks but does even worse that the skin diver, due to his heavy equipment.

Mike also finds himself far from shore. He could do the same as the skin diver before, but let's give Mickey some more problems to solve. He's exhausted and the water is very rough. Nelleyson pulls his vest and tries to relax. He is no longer breathing from his tank. Mike is snorkeling, but still has about 500 psi left. He's drifted way out now, and is pondering the possible dumping of his weight belt, but decides not to. This is not such a bad idea; if he dumps his belt, his lower half will become excessively buoyant due to the inherent buoyancy of his wet suit. A weight belt will keep his lower half submerged while the vest keeps his top half exposed to the air. He can "dig in" with his fins when he wants to swim, instead of splashing around on the surface like a demented seagull. Also, if you dump your belt when caught in a current and inflate your vest, you're going to take off like a shot.

A scuba diver has another option. In a situation where dizziness or extreme exhaustion exists, a diver may drop his tanks. This serves to unburden the diver, decrease water drag, and remove any breathing restrictions caused by the tank straps. There is one big drawback: If there is air in the tanks, once they are dropped that air is gone forever. Should the circumstance arise in which the diver gets into a tough patch of water, he can switch to his tanks and no longer swallow water through the snorkel. This tends to calm the diver and keep him from panic.

In each situation, I mentioned a "last lunge" for the rocks. When caught in a current, this "last lunge" fails 90% of the time. But divers, by nature, never give up too easily. So instead of omitting it, I included it to make the situation as realistic as possible.

Exhaustion is very important to the diver; or rather, the prevention of it is. This topic is also rarely covered in basic scuba class. Exhaustion, not the bends or sharks, is a diver's worst enemy. Extreme fatigue can bring about panic, blackouts, and even kill the diver. Exhaustion can occur at any depth, and frequently hits the diver after climbing down the diving ladder.

Preventing this problem is not as easy as you may think. Diving is possibly the most physically-exhausting sport. The only way to combat fatigue is to stop and rest. Your breathing must be relaxed before you continue your dive. But diving should always be taken easy, so take it easy and all good things will come to you.

Author's Note: Scuba safety cannot be covered totally in one article. Safety comes from experience, and experience takes time. Oh, P.S.: Mickey made it back Okay; I didn't want to leave you hanging!

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CLUB NEWS

SHEEPSHEAD BAY H.S. FISHING CLUB

The Sheepshead Bay High School Fishermen recently announced the creation of the first Annual Fishing Tournament in its history. Point values are assigned for any fish taken during a sanctioned club trip. All fish are weighed by Will Daskal and recorded in an appropriate log. Any fish caught, weighed and released unharmed and in a safe, sportsman-like manner receives bonus points added to the point value of the fish. The contest covers the entire school year and the winner will have his name engraved on a handsome trophy to be kept permanently on public display in the school trophy case; that is, once they can locate a donor of the trophy or of interested groups and/or individuals who would care to assist in financing their awards system. Any so interested people should contact Will Daskal at Sheepshead Bay H.S., 3000 Avenue X, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11235.

SQUAW ISLAND FISHING CLUB 1974 ANNUAL AWARDS

Trophies for the Annual Awards were presented at the Installation and Awards Dinner April 11, 1975, at the LaGrange.

1st Place

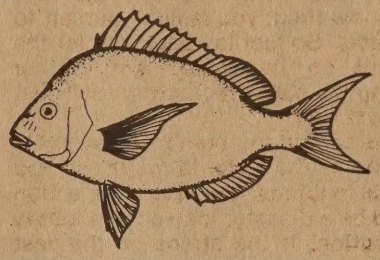
Albacore - Bob Grippe, 11 lbs. 8 oz; Bluefish - Nick Buglione, 18 lbs. 4 oz; Blue Shark - Bob Bryany, 164 lbs.; Codfish - Bob Bryant, 43 lbs; Flounder (Tie) - Chris Petersen, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Flounder - William Reupke, 1 lb. 8 oz.; Fluke - Ed Bain, 9 lbs. 2 oz.; Mako Shark - Herb Zilla, 248 lbs.; Striped Bass - Frank Newman, 35 lbs; Tuna - John Naimoli, 45 lbs. 4 oz.; Weakfish - Al Smith, 11 lbs. 10 oz.; White Marlin - Jerry Boles, 63 lbs.

2nd Place

Albacore - Bob Cunningham, 10 lbs. 14 oz.; Bluefish - Bob Grippe, 13 lbs. 8 oz.; Blue Shark - Joe Braun, 162 lbs.; Codfish - Dan Fischer, 42 lbs.; Flounder - William Peterson, 1 lb. 4 oz.; Fluke - Sy Panzer, 6 lbs. 10 oz.; Mako Shark - Frank Newman, 247 lbs.; Striped Bass - Vince Losito, 33 lbs.; Tuna - Joe Koestner, 42 lbs.; Weakfish - Joe Koestner, 9 lbs. 6 oz.; White Marlin - Ed Bain, 59 lbs. 8 oz.

3rd Place

Bluefish - William Marvin, 11 lbs. 8 oz.; Blue Shark - George McCarthy, 137 lbs.; Codfish - Al Smith, 41 lbs. 3 oz.; Flounder (Tie) - Tony Losito, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Flounder - Anthony Pisciotta, 1 lb. 3 oz.; Fluke - Joe Braun, 7 lbs. 4 oz.; Mako Shark, Nick Buglione, 147 lbs.; Tuna - Cleve Byram, 21 lbs. 6 oz.; Weakfish - Roland Ayasse, 9 lbs. 3 oz.



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FRESHWATER FISHING
with Angelo Peluso

BOOK REVIEW

Most fishermen would agree that a significant amount of fishing enjoyment is derived from both pre-season and post-season experiences. Just think back to the last time that you sat in your easy chair and re-lived a memorable angling adventure. Or how about the story-swapping at your last club meeting? I bet that some of those yarns made your mouth water. Its all a part of the game.

Pre-season anticipation leads many of us to spend numerous hours anxiously preparing for the coming of a particular opening day. We dabble with the lures in our tackle boxes, tie and re-tie flies and leaders, re-spool line, etc., etc., etc. Each and every one of these acts, in and of itself, gives enjoyment and satisfaction. All of this leads up to the fact that the fishing experience encompasses more than the physical act of catching fish.

One of my own "vents" for the out of season blues has been through the collecting of fishing books, both old and new publications. The pages of various books have been found to contain much valuable and useful information. Though originally intended to keep my mind occupied during the off-season, these books have become a key source of practical fishing information that I turn to throughout the year. They have also enabled me to considerable broaden my overall knowledge base.

As the fresh water seasons approach, and even as they come upon us, anglers are usually concerned with ways to better their catches. One very significant attribute of some of the more technically oriented fishing books is that the reader can extract portions of a particular author's fishing method, system or technique and apply it to his own style. On occasion, a modification of this type has been the difference between success and failure.

I realize that experience is the best teacher and that a proposed fishing system cannot always be the absolute answer, but there are a number of books on the market that do offer practical suggestions to the fresh water fisherman.

I have categorized these books in terms of the major gamefish of our region, trout and bass, and will also list a few preferred panfish and general information publications.

TROUT

1. *Streamside Guide* by Arthur B. Flick, Crown Publishers, $4.95. This book rates high on my list of all-time favorites. Art Flick has created a fabulous "vest pocket" guide to fly selection. His approach is simple, straightfoward and will have a very definite impact on fly selection strategy. Mr. Flick takes a sensible look at natural aquatic insects and presents the reader with no more than ten appropriate imitations. The material has significance to our area since Mr. Flick is a fly-fishing New Yorker.

2. *The Compleat Brown Trout* by Cecil E. Heacox, Winchester Press, $12.50. This is another book written by a native New Yorker. Mr. Heacox's biological training and Conservation Department experience has richly enhanced the data that is presented. The book represents one of the most complete and interesting studies of the brown trout. The reader is presented with a compilation of easy to read "brownie" facts. The choice of topics, color plates and diagrams will be of interest to all serious trout fishermen.

3. *Selective Trout* by Doug Swisher and Carl Richards, Crown Publishers, $6.95. This publication is like a fly fishing textbook. It is a must for the serious fly fisherman or fly tyer. The authors have taken a very comprehensive look at stream entomology and have been able to develop a number of rather unique fly patterns. Selective Trout is loaded with color plates, diagrams, charts and fly tying date. It is well worth the investment.

4. *Trout* by Ray Bergman, Knopf Publishers, $12.50. This book is considered by many to be a classic on trout. It is probably the late Mr. Bergman's most famous piece of fishing literature. It covers the topic of trout fishing is a masterful way. Originally published in a limited first edition (149 copies), the book has been reprinted many times due to popular demand. If you make the purchase, you'll have no regrets.

5. *The Complete Book of Fly Fishing* by Joe Brooks, Outdoor Life, $7.95. Complete is definitely what this book is. It examines all aspects of the sport and has something for the experienced angler as well as for the novice. Special emphasis is given to the various techniques associated with trout. The book has earned a permanent place in my library for its words are written by a true master.

BASS

1. *Practical Balck Bass Fishing* by Mark Sosin and Bill Dance, Crown Publishers, $7.95. Without a doubt, the most practical of any such books on the market. The authors supply the reader with the necessary "need to know" information that is essential to successful bass fishing. All of the critical areas are examined, and valuable tips and pointers are given. The technical data is clearly stated and much of it is accompanied by helpful diagrams. This book is capable of making the good bass fisherman even better.

2. *Complete Book of Bass Fishing* by Grits Gresham, Outdoor Life, $6.95. Another quality "how-to" book

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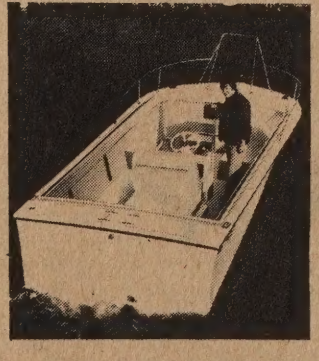

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by a seasoned outdoorsman. It offers the reader an in-depth look at the total sport of bass fishing. The author places emphasis on some rather interesting topics. Makes a great addition to any collection.

3. *Modern Book of the Black Bass* by Byron Dalrymple, Winchester Press, $6.95. My reason for including this book on this list is that it has been able to fill a certain void created by the more general books on the subject of bass. The author examines some of the more subtle aspects of the sport and takes a very scientific look at the large and smallmouth bass. I am very pleased with this selection and can honestly say that it has given me more to think about when I am out after bass.

4. *Fishing For Bass* by A.D. Livingston, J.B. Lippincott Company, $8.95. This is the most recent addition to my collection of bass books. It is highly up to date and includes most of the most modern types of tackle and techniques. A few of the selections really appealed to me. It makes for some interesting reading. Also has some fine photographs and diagrams.

PANFISH

1. Panfish by Byron W. Dalrymple, Whittlesey House. Since this book is an older publication, you might have some difficulty obtaining it. I mention it here because it happens to be my favorite book on the subject. It is a very down-to-earth book about very down-to-earth fish. It can usually be located in some of the old-books shops and is well worth the time spent in hunting it down.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. *The Complete Book of Fresh Water Fishing* by P. Allen Parsons, Outdoor Life. In terms of a general information guide to fresh water fishing, this book is excellent. It presents the novice with an easy to understand overview of the sport and contains some interesting tips for the experienced angler. The book is very popular and should be relatively easy to locate.

This selection of books should be sufficient enough for a beginning library. The books are relevant and useful, and the fresh water angler will gain much from them. I hope that they can help you be more proficient in the art of angling.

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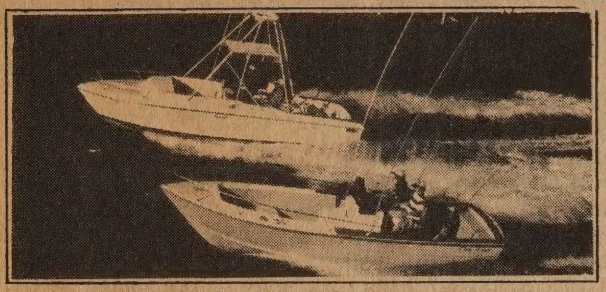

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THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

BLACKFISH BASICS: Part I: Rigs & Tackle

Blackfish must reign as king of the bottom fish, since they challenge all the skills and experience of the sinker bouncer. All the elements for the classic fish-versus-fisherman battle are here: difficulty in locating, importance of bait presentation, precise striking techniques. And let's not forget the black's remarkable ability to hang-up a rig on a bottom obstruction seconds after feeling the sting of an angler's hook. Add to this the bulldog-like fight of the blackfish and it is easy to see why the International Game Fish Association has seen fit to classify the black as a gamefish.

Th scientific name for the blackfish is *Tautoga onitis*; outside of the New York area they are commonly known as "tautog." The spring run of fish usually begins in late April or early May and peaks sometime in June. During the summer months, when the water warms up, blackfish disperse to the point where fishing exclusively for them is usually not worthwhile. As the water temperature begins to drop in the fall, the blacks again congregate and, from mid-October well into December, both shores of the Island experience the best blackfishing of the year.

No treatise on blackfish is complete without a few hundred words about the scourge of the blackfisherman—the bergall. This toothy little critter makes such a pest of himself that the mark of a good fisherman is how well he manages to avoid them. Fishing techniques are actually modified to get a hook past the bait-stealing bergall and into the jaws of a blackfish.

Rigging-up is probably the easiest aspect of blackfishing. The important factor to keep in mind is that the black is extremely timid, so the bait must lie motionless on the bottom without any unnatural movement. Tie the hook into the leader about two inches above the sinker so that the bait will always rest on the bottom. If you desire, a second hook may be tied into the middle of the snell of the first. Just bend the snell in the middle and pass the bend through the loop of the second hook. Then pass the second hook through the bend, pull taut, and end with a simple overhand knot.

If you find yourself donating a lot of rigs to the underwater tackle shop, dispense with the second hook. While it is a truism that if rigs aren't getting hung up occasionally you are not in the right spot for blackfish, there is no reason why these losses shouldn't be kept to a minimum. Hook and sinker should be attached to a heavy monofilament leader that can stand up to the abrasive rocks and mussel beds.

Bank or cannonball sinkers are less likely to foul on bottom obstructions than other patterns, and these should be used exclusively when blackfishing. Many times it is the sinker, not the hook, that hangs up on a piece of bottom. The trick is to rig up in a manner so that when that inevitable moment comes you will donate only the sinker to the ocean floor, not the entire rig. This subject was thoroughly covered in the article "The Curse of the Sinker Bouncer," L.I.F. Volume 9, Number 50.

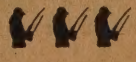
The proper hook pattern is another critical area for successful blackfishing. For blackfish, there is only one choice: the Virginia. Don't substitute here. Other hook styles just can't penetrate the tough jaws of the blackfish as well as the Virginia. Use number 8 hooks for small blackfish and number 4's for the big ones. If the blacks are running mixed sizes in the area you are fishing, a number 6 Virginia is a happy medium. Pre-tie plenty of rigs; you'll need 'em!

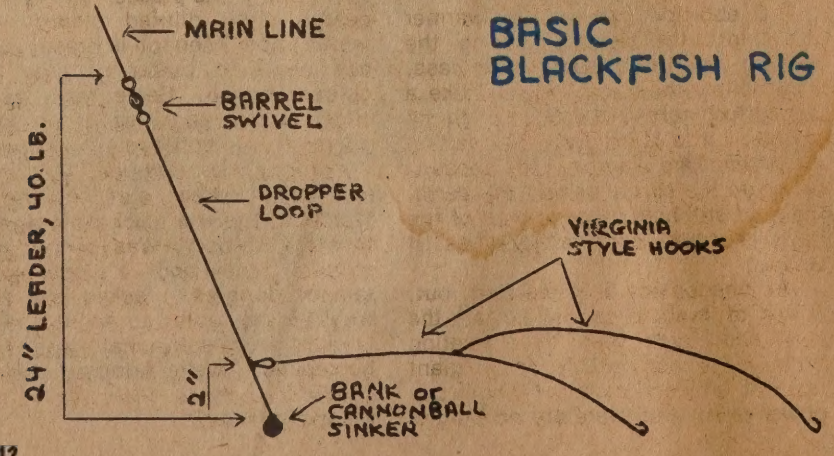
The first reaction of a hooked blackfish is for it to stand on its head and try to bulldog back to the nearest rock or bottom obstruction, and safety. In the process, either the rig will get hung up or the line will become abraded and sever. For this reason it is important to use equipment that is sturdy enough to turn a blackfish's head as soon as it is hooked. Use either a short, medium-action boat rod with a conventional reel, or a seven to 7½-foot spinning rod with plenty of backbone, and matching reel. Use 15- to 25-pound test monofilament to complement the outfit and fishing conditions. Whatever you choose, avoid going too light in the tackle department.

The diet of the blackfish consists primarily of crabs, mussels and barnacles which attach themselves to various bottom obstructions. These same obstructions become an obstacle course you must fish over. You will get hung-up frequently, but this is the price that must be paid for fishing prime blackfish areas. That inevitable moment arrives when a black hangs you up, but there's one trick you can try: Open your bail or put the reel on free-spool and feed a little slack line in the water. Then watch the line to see if it moves. Chances are the blackfish will think he is free and come out of his hiding place, bringing your rig out with him. Then sock him again, before he can pull the same trick.

A net is required equipment for the serious blackfisherman. Blacks will often only be lip-hooked, and many will be dropped at the wrong side of the boat if you try to just swing them aboard. Carry a net, even if the blacks have been running small. You never know when that bulldog is going to show up!

NEXT WEEK: Baits & Areas.





Surf Side

with Doc Muller

Early Bass in Little Neck Bay Part I: Why Does It Happen?

As the temperature of the water in Little Neck Bay nudges toward 45-50 degrees, the season for bass fishing on Long Island begins. It's strange that the warm water pouring out into mid-Sound also reaches our Long Island fishermen: From Brooklyn to Mineola the warmth awakens an urge which has been quietly awaiting the climbing sun.

Somehow, an instinct deep within us takes over and we sense that the stripers are working their way into the bay with their noses down in the mud, straining it for tiny invertebrates.

Perhaps it's a gentle spring breeze or the tips of the crocuses pushing through the frozen surface of the garden soil. Whatever the signal, we surfcasters know exactly what we must do.

Thus begins the sometimes laborious and mystical season of the surf fishermen. Nature's regularity of renewing the migrating schools becomes the reason for man's ritual, and so we trek, like lemmings, to the shores of Little Neck Bay.

Why does it start here for us? We can understand why the Hudson River bass fishing perks up this time of year, for, after all, millions of bass have spent the winter there in order to spawn as spring approaches. But somehow the appearance of the bass in Little Neck Bay seems to be an anomaly.

Yet, we can explain their early activity. For one thing, the entire Hudson River population of bass does not migrate into the river each fall. It may be that stripers do not spawn every year, and those that are not destined to reproduce will winter-over in the salt chuck. Anyway, there seems to be considerable evidence that many bass winter in the Sound where they find deep spots in which the water temperature near the bottom stays close to 40 degrees or perhaps a little higher.

There's quite a good supply of bait down there, too! The menu may include whiting, cod, tom cod, flounder, and a variety of crustaceans. I doubt that the bass roam around in any concentrations. Instead, they probably stake out a territory, swim little, and eat whatever wanders by their sensitive noses. Their active days are limited to spells of mild weather when their body temperatures are high enough to allow for some swimming. During the colder periods they are semi-comatose and neither eat, swim, nor consciously sense the environment.

Inevitable, the winter wanes and the sun climbs higher in the sky each day. The days are longer and the period of heating is longer, too. In addition, the rays of the sun are more direct; some heating occurs even on very cold days.

But why is Little Neck Bay the choice for first invasion? For one thing, most of the bays and harbors that rim Long Island Sound are rather deep and, therefore, the water temperature inside the confined body of water is very much like the outside, in the Sound.

But Little Neck Bay is different. It's really a huge mud flat, with much of the bottom sediment dark or black. The darker the material, the more effective it is as a heat trap. The sun's rays pass through the atmosphere in a form that does not heat the air. Instead, these rays must strike something solid and, when they do, they are converted into a form of heat energy that can be felt.

Thus, the water is heated because of the heat conversion taking place on the bottom. It can result in a 5-10 degree temperature increase during a single day in shallow water. In deeper water, the warmer water creates convection currents that cause it to rise to the surface—as it does in shallow water. But the warm water is quickly robbed of its heat, which is dissipated into the greater mass of colder water. The result produces only minor temperature changes.

The ebb-tide carries the warmer water into the Sound, stirring the feeding urge in the winter-over bass. They follow the water, flowing like a warm river across the Sound, to its source, Little Neck Bay. The falling night tides are warmer, too, because although the sun is behind the earth, the mud still holds a good deal of the day's warmth and relinquishes it slowly.

The phenomena is interesting, but, in and of itself, it cannot explain the April and March bass. As a heating event it is comparable to a giant thermal effluent from a monstrous power plant. But there are no bunker and spearing trapped in the warm water from a previous productive season. This may be so at Glenwood Landing or at Northport, but no on the mud flat.

But the mud is not only a source of heat; it is also home for countless millions of tiny animals: blood worms, sand worms, ribbon worms, shrimp, clams, crabs, eels, and tiny crustaceans. The warming sun increases their activity also and, although they have spent the winter months deep in the mud, they now begin to move about on the surface, thus providing food for a variety of predators—including bass.

Life in the mud is abundant. In fact, it is one of only a few places left in the extreme western Sound where it's still worthwhile to dig your own worms.

This early season is genuinely regulated by present and past temperature patterns and, once again this year, mild winter temperatures should provide the impetus for an early run of bass on the mud flats. By the end of March the bass will be there, but the best fishing will occur during the last few weeks of April. By the first or second week in May the fish will be strung out along the beaches and will renew their interest in the newly-arrived baitfish. In turn, the fishermen will renew their interest in plugs, tins, and bucktails. But for now it's worms on the mud for us.

And so nature's plan takes shape. Soon, faster than we'd like to see it come and go, we'll be pounding the beaches as the bass push their way south again.

(*Continued from page 21.*)

into serving size pieces, dip them into beaten eggs diluted slightly with lemon juice. Then roll in bread crumbs and saute in butter or oleo until golden brown. Serve with lemon slices and/or tartar sauce (it comes prepared in a bottle at your grocer's).

Apropos the doggies. One night last fall, when surf fishing at Montauk, I saw a truck on a dock in Montauk Harbor. It was loading up on stripers, blues and—a whole mountain of doggies. I asked the driver what he was going to do with them. Looking at me somewhat disdainfully, he replied, "We're bringing them to Arthur Treacher's Fish and Chips. What'cha think?"

Ultra-Light Flounder:

The Only Way to Fly!

by Bruce Sucher

Jack hadn't fished salt water since he moved down to Atlanta. The occasional letter and more frequent phone calls between us were as much fishing reports as anything else. When his plane arrived, the first thing out of his mouth was. "How are the flounders hitting?"

Though I was doing a construction job at the time, there seemed nothing to do but take a few days off for "personal reasons" and hit the channels and bays. The idea was not exactly repellent to me. I was (and still am) a flounder freak of some renown, and all I really needed was a good excuse.

Though his family was anxious to see him, they were a little disappointed the next day. By the time they arrived, we were long gone.

The sun had started coming up, and the time it took to get the skiff at Henning's into the water seemed interminable. The fishing according to Sy Rubin had been so-so, but Jack and I had our own plans. We'd fished Reynolds Channel for a few years and we knew that, when in doubt, buoy 9 and plenty of chum-bag bouncing was in order.

We tried a few places along the way but by the time we got to Buoy 9 we'd told just about all our Reynold's Channel flounder stories to make up for the lack of fish.

I lowered the bag full of crushed mussels, crabs and clams along with an old diving weight belt and started bouncing. The first fish wasn't long in coming, but it was only a little bigger than small. We looked at it and decided to throw it back. We'd fished long enough to know the story of how the small fish were at the bottom of the bucket and, as the day got better, the fish got bigger until, back at the dock, we'd realize what we'd done and be a little ashamed of ourselves.

The fish got a little bigger and the action a little faster. Soon we were catching fish at a good clip, each one about three-quarters of a pound. Then the action stopped abruptly as it had started. I knew the best tide to fish at 9, top of the out-going, but that wasn't for another few hours. I'd been following fishing reports in LIF and, since Duck Point had been given some favorable reviews and was literally just around the corner, we decided to give it a try.

The ten horsepower Wankel caught and we were on our way. The high revs of the engine made it sound like an insane coffee grinder, and I was about ready for it to throw a piston when I realized that the engine didn't have pistons. The engine worked just fine and I suppose that's what counts, but it took some getting used to.

Anyway, it took about ten minutes before I set the hook in six feet of water and started bouncing the chum sack. There were plenty of other boats in the area: I stopped counting at thirty. It looked a little like a parking lot and the fishing was slow.

Jack was falling asleep when I landed the first good fish of the day, a flounder of about 1½ pounds. That didn't make Jack move. A fish shook him out of his slumber, another nice fish, but things seemed to die down after another few keepers.

I broke out my ultra-light rod and reel. The rod is a five-footer and the reel is an old Compa Atlas loaded with four pound test mono. Onto a number 5 swivel I hooked on two number 10 Carlisles. Just above the swivel I twisted on a ½-ounce rubber core shot. I'd had success with that rod and reel with trout, bass and panfish in freshwater, and small stripers, snappers and herring in the bays, but I'd never used it for flounder.

The four-pound test line was a little light so I'd blood-knotted a shocker of eight pound test to make lifting any decent fish a little easier. I cast about thirty feet from the boat and let it sit, then slowly retrieved it, figuring on covering bottom much the same way you fish from the shore for fluke.

It wasn't long before I felt a tap. I let the fish eat and then lifted the rod sharply to set the hook. The fish arced the rod beautifully and it fought well, making runs to the surface and then back to the bottom. The sound of the racing drag opened Jack's eyes and he watched me fighting the flounder, whooping as it would rip another ten feet of line off the thimble-sized spool. I finally lifted the fish on board and admired it, realizing for the first time just how a fine a fighter a flounder of one pound could be. I retired my heavier tackle and tried using the UL exclusively.

It was either the fact that the #10 Carlisles on fine leader was fooling the fish, or my "luck" was changing, but I started doing well. Each fish in that shallow water fought like Joe Frazier. I was doing fine, but Jack was getting a little annoyed. Since the tide was about high, we headed back for buoy 9.

The tide as usual made all the difference, and the chum sack held the fish in tha area. The ultra-light worked well in the deeper water. The half ounce shot and light line held bottom where a two-ounce bank sinker on 15 pound test would barely

By the look on his face, Jack might have been expecting an albacore.

hold. About this time Jack had gotten the sleep out of his eyes and started catching fish. Most of them were about a pound, some were a little more. Those less than a pound were thrown back.

Boats that were passing 9 saw we had action and stopped near us. It wasn't long before we were the center of a necklace of boats. They were a little disappointed, though, when they could not raise fish while we were doing so well. We told them to try chumming, but apparently they hadn't even thought about that and were paying a price in frustration for their lack of preparation.

A few anglers went as far as to cast near us, one almost dropping three ounces of lead and a couple of Chestertowns into my rear pocket. I didn't have to say anything; he retrieved and discontinued what could have been a dangerous practice.

For us, the fishing continued well. Everytime either of us hooked a fish, I would bounce the chum sack, and about every half hour replenish the crushed shellfish. I finally gave Jack the UL to give it a try. A fish hit and he was as happy as I've seen him.

He fought the fish and then lifted it aboard by the eight pound test shocker. The fragile rod tip couldn't safely hold the struggling fish. He looked at his flounder much like I had looked at my first ultra light flounder a few hours earlier.

I've tried ultra light tackle for various salt water species, and I can lure most surface fish into hitting my lure or bait; the problem is with bottom feeders. Usually these fish reside in deep water, making fairly heavy lead a must. This puts too much weight on the light rod and reel, almost eliminating the outfit's action.

A particular species I've had trouble with are fluke. Though I can make them hit in shallow water, I just can't seem to hook them. The little wand doesn't seem to have enough backbone to sink the hook into their somewhat boney mouths. Smaller hooks would probably work, but this would reduce a gut-hooked throw-back into crab bait. Flounders, however, have a soft fleshy mouth and are frequently found in shallow water, making them prime and able candidates for ultra light tackle.

In May and June I've had great success with large female flounders in Jamaica Bay. While other anglers are trying for the first fluke or bass of the season, I'll still be bouncing a chum sack for the late spring flatties. Ultra light spinning tackle may not be good for filling a bushel basket with flounder, but it sure is a lot of fun. And isn't that what it's all about?

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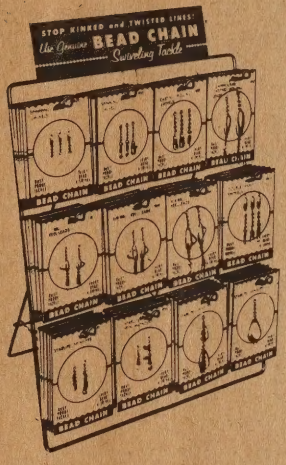

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Tease A Weak

by Capt. Bob Schavel

I'm sure all Long Island fishermen are aware of the tremendous schools of weakfish that have once again visited our waters, after having disappeared for 15 to 20 years. The fish swarm into the Great South Bay area around Heckscher Park in mid to late-April, and stay around for about a month before they continue their journey to Peconic Bay.

Anglers caught literally thousands of weaks in 1974, beginning around the middle of May, near Buoys 3 and 4 off Heckscher Park. A large majority of the fish caught at that time were roe-filled females of 5 or 6 pounds, but throughout the spring fish of all sizes were caught, from the 8" ones I landed in the Copaigue Hole (in the East-West channel, east of Copaigue Beach), to the big 13 lb. 2 oz. weak that Doc. Grell caught on #6 test line (Who knows exactly where?).

Probably the most popular artificial lure for these gamefish (and I do believe these hard-fighting speedsters should be considered gamefish) is the plastic shrimp, whether you call it a Salty Dog, Viking Flapper Tail, Lupo Shrimp, Maggot or Tout. All have produced well for me.

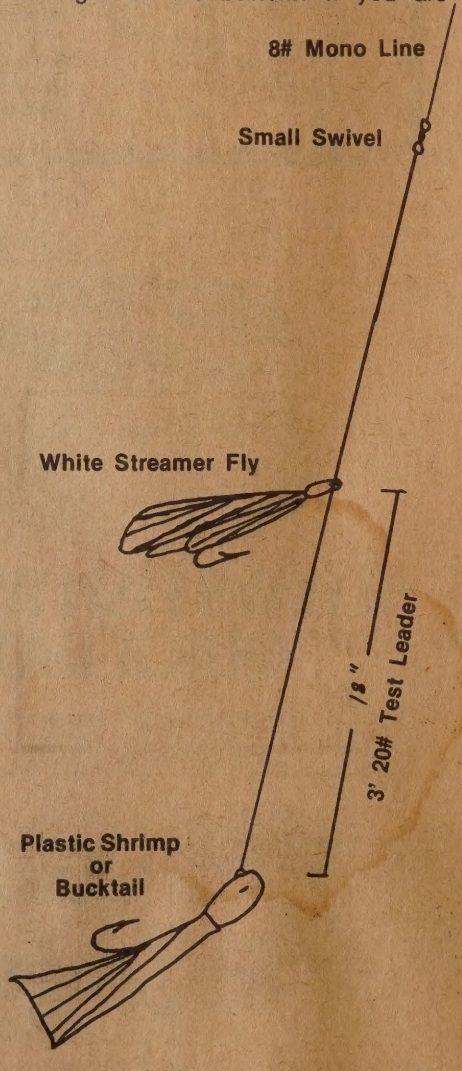
The most popular sizes used (with spinning tackle) range from 3/8-ounce up to one-ounce. The standard color appears to be pink (fluorescent pink being the most common), but on cloudy overcast days, gray or amber seems to attract the fish a little better than the pink. With weaks, it's best to have an assortment of colors and to try all of them to find the fish's preference the particular day you are fishing.

Next in popularity would be Hopkins lures in the smaller sizes, and you might want to experiment with removing the treble hook and replacing it with a single. A single hook facilitates removal from the weak's fragile mouth without tearing it, and this allows released fish to be in better condition when returned to the water.

The third most popular lure for weakfish would have to be the bucktail. Most of the standard patterns, such as the Upperman and Smiling Bill, do fine in the ¾-to 1-ounce sizes. The colors here would be white or yellow, or a combination of both. Viking Products has an interesting "Buck-Tube" featuring a bucktail with a short piece of surgical tubing which works well some days. Again, you have to experiment with color and size.

The best trick I learned in fishing for weaks the past couple of summers is the use of a "teaser" rigged about 18 inches in front of your plastic shrimp (or bucktail, Hopkins, etc.). I originally used a single hook tied with white bucktail, such as the type sold to add or replace tail hooks on plugs (single hooks, not trebles), but more recently I have had much success with large fresh water streamer-type flies, which are usually white or yellow, and I might add a strip or two of mylar for attraction. (See diagram.)

If wind and tide are not too strong and you are drifting, lower the rig over the windward side of the boat and jig it right on the bottom. If you are anchored, cast away from the boat and allow the rig to reach bottom. Then slowly retrieve while raising and lowering the rod tip. Most of the time the fish will be right on the bottom, or a foot or so above. Work the teaser all the way back to the boat, however, as there are those days when the fish are at mid-level and will grab the rig as you are about to lift it out of the water. If at all possible, try and cover all compass points with your casting till you find the area where the fish are concentrated. Use some common sense here and make sure your fellow fishermen are out of the way before you start all that casting.



This teaser will add greatly to the number of strikes from weaks, and I usually use it only when the action is slow. Actually I've caught as many weaks on the teaser as on the plastic shrimp. If you wich to experiment more, add a piece of squid.

The big drawback of this type of rig is the fact that you catch quite a number of doubleheaders. Countless times I'd set the hook on a weak and began playing him when I had another strike and ended up reeling in two weakfish. While this may seem great to some fishermen, I just hope it does not make us greedy and that we tag and release many of these double-headers. What I usually do is file the barb off the hook on the teaser. This way you increase your chances of losing this fish, and it usually happens about the time you place your net in the water. It's almost impossible to keep slack out of your line when two fish are running in all directionsat the same time. The barbless hook also facilitates the release of the fish, if you do land them both, without injury.

The weakfish is truly a fisherman's dream come true. He is much easier to catch than the elusive striper, gives more fight than our plentiful flounders, and is found in inland waters where small-boat fishermen have easy access. Grab a 6½ or 7-foot spinning rod, fill the reel with 8 or 12# test line and tie on one of these teaser rigs.

Please remember: the teaser is used to produce more action on slow days and is not for taking home large quantities of these hard-fighting sportsters to impress your friends with, or to sell.

At the End of the Line

by Ed Haring

The game plan is the same no matter where, how or when we go fishing. It all boils down to enticing some trusting citizen of King Neptune's realm into testing his bridgework on a tempter, then having the hook hold fast through the ensuing action. Whether a lad with a handline or a tycoon in a trim cruiser bristling with the finest tackle is at the opposite end, the hook is the most important item once the battle begins.

If the catch is of the bragging variety, we can expect strong emphasis to be given to the reel, rod, line and lure, but who ever gives a hook credit for anything? Yet all the gear—and the angler—would be useless without a hook at connection between tackle and fish.

Hooks are not the easiest part of our equipment to live with. I wish I had a penny for every foolproof hook carrier I've bought and tossed away throughout the years! Even in the post-moonwalk era in which we live, hooks plague us by fouling our gear, snagging clothing or parts of our, or our buddy's, anatomy. They are an ever-present danger that we must put up with.

In order to have them perform efficiently we must do our part. While sharpening a hook does not involve much in the way of manual labor, nor does it create a mess, it seems to be the job we leave to last. Unfortunately, it may be left until the day after the big one gets away. A few deft passes with a file or stone will give hooks the needle sharpness needed to lessen the odds against us. Even if you did put new hooks on your lures, they still require a few strokes to give them the points they should have.

Sometimes I wish we had a counterpart of Ralph Nader to call back lures with defective hooks. With the prices we pay, we ought not get hooks that straighten out even on smaller fish, or rust away if only exposed to a light mist. How many bucktails and bare hooks are befouled with rust after the plug is used once or twice? If you try to replace the originals you have another problem—trying to find a good quality treble of the right size and weight is not easy. The makers of many quality lures consistantly use quality hooks, so they are available. For a penny or two more, the manufacturers could give us a far more reliable product.

Surf casting has the dubious honor of being **numero uno** as far as lost fish is concerned. Many factors enter into this: the angle of the strike, where the catch is landed, and the continual beating the gear takes.

There are times, when casting into a school of wildly feeding fish, that we seem to lose a greater proportion of our strikes. Some of this can be attributed to a collision between the fish and lure. At our end of the line there is no difference in the feeling. After a brief flurry the hook often tears loose; if not, we bring in something only half the size of what we expected.

During the action that takes place after the fish seizes the lure, the tissue surrounding the point of penetration tears somewhat and—barb or no barb—the hook stands a good chance of falling out if the fish given the least bit of slack.

No, I don't mean you should tighten the drag and horse the poor critter in. There are more big, wise lunkers beyond the bar that can claim this panic move as the reason for their longevity. Keep a steady pressure, let the rod do its part. Back up a few steps, now bring the fish in with the next wave. Slide it up beyond the backwash and then slip it onto the chain.

There are a few critical moments during this maneuver. The fish can use the weight of the lure to his advantage in his final headshaking lunges. That, the sand under his belly—or both, can supply the leverage needed to toss the plug back at you.

Should you lose a fish or get snagged, take the time out to examine your hooks. Have they been bent, straightened out, or broken?

This care also pays dividends in rocky areas. There was a night when casting from Narragansett's rocky shores that I missed one solid hit after another. Finally, I dared to turn on my light and was shocked to see my Atom swimmer was hookless! A quick switch to a big Rebel produced a 25-pounder before the school moved on.

You can be a much happier hooker if you give that annoying little piece of curved metal the tender loving care it requires. One thing is certain: you are not going to do a lot of fishing without it!

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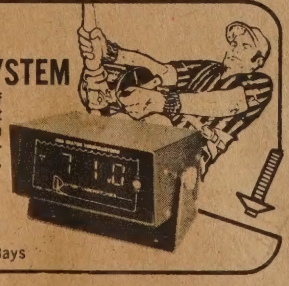

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MONTAUK DARTER

by Jack "The Professor" Frech — Part Two

What really is a darter? By popular conception, it is a plug with a sloping head which, for its fish appeal, depends upon the water action in a rip or an extremely fast tidal current.

Little do many fishermen know that is it a highly proficient fish-taker in relatively calm water. It has a type of construction which readily lends itself to rod action and left-hand manipulation. Many have been the nights when the action has been dead on the North Shore and the only fish to be carried home was caught on a darter in flat water.

However, the MONTAUK DARTER is not one of these. It is made for fishing way out, in fast water, and in the high surf.

In addition to the birch dowel and the balancing weights mentioned in preceding issues, there is one other essential that must be prepared before construction can begin.

A search must be instituted for a piece of hollow tubing, 1-1/8 inches inside diameter. This will be used to make the jig which will determine the profile of the diving plane and the placement of the front hook hanger.

The first piece of tubing I ever used was hard brass and it came from a junk yard. Plumbing supply houses sometimes have this size, but it is most often very thin. It is actually not sufficiently rigid to hold its shape when cut three inches on the length. Material of this nature can be "beefed-up" after cutting by inserting a piece of dowel and binding tightly to shape midway in the cut with masking tape. If one chooses to go this route, be certain that the first round of tape has the sticky side out. This will insure the second and additional strengthening wraps will not stick when the dowel is removed.

Cast iron pipe comes regularly in a 1-1/8-inch inside diameter and makes an excellent jig. Cutting it, however, takes a great deal of time. I always feel I can gnaw out a year's supply of plugs before a cast iron pipe can be cut into a workable jig.

The best piece of tubing I ever worked with was originally a solid inch and three-eighths brass rod which was bored to the proper diameter. It took me three years to find the man who would do the job for a price I could pay—a year's supply of fillets!

1. The jig can be cut by first inscribing the proper dimensions on the tubing and next using a hacksaw and a metal file to cut away the excess material. I have found it better to make a successful, working darter by hand, one which is really GREAT and which catches fish. Using this as a model, I made the jig. It became the mother for all future darters of a similar size.

2. Remove the hook hangers and eye hangers or screw eyes from the model. Drill ¼-inch holes, ½-inch deep in the place of the belly-hook hangers.

3. Locate the position of the front belly-hook hanger on the tubing 1½-inches from the front edge. Drill a ¼-inch hole at this point.

4. Insert the model plug into the tubing. Place a dowel pin through the hole in the tubing and into the hole for the belly-hook hanger. This locks both pieces together and prevents slippage.

5. Cut away all of the excess tubing with a hacksaw and a metal file. Take extreme care with these cuts. Remember: the diving plane on every darter will be initially conditioned by accuracy at this point.

Early in my plug-making years I worked to get the diving angle perfect and never worried about the lip layout until the final operation. Later, as skills were perfected, all of the details were cut into the jig, which was then a more sophisticated tool.

6. Remove the model plug from the tubing and the jig is ready for use.

The accuracy and the dependability of the finished darters will directly relate to the skills employed by the plugmaker. Strive for the very best with the equipment and the tools available. Before moving on to really specialized equipment, my darters were all turned out by hand and they could be guaranteed to catch fish.

1. Drill a ¼" hole, ½-inch deep at the center of the tail end.

2. Cut the tail end. If it is to be cut by hand using a wood file or rasp, set the work up as in the W-Y POPPER. Draw two concentric circles on the tail end. The first, 1/8-inch from the outside diameter and the second, ¼-inch from the same outside diameter.

Mark a circle around the dowel 1-¼-inch from the tail end. Remove the wood between this line and the outer circle.

Mark a second line around the dowel ½-inch from the end of this sloping cut. Cut away the wood between this line and the inner circle.

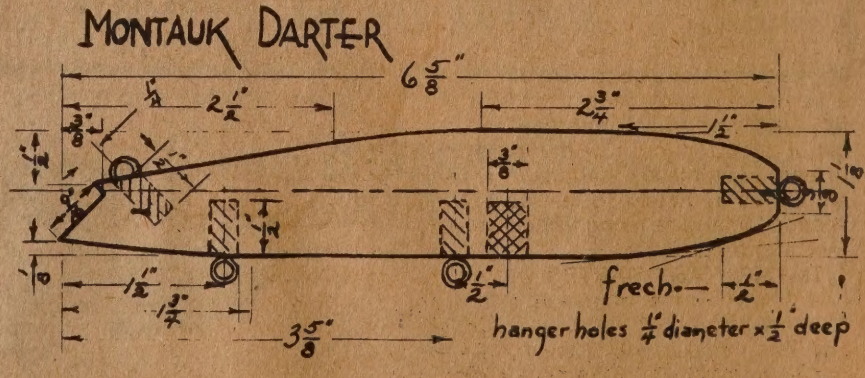
3. Finish by rounding and smoothing with open coat sandpaper. Of course, a lathe or a sanding disc will do a quicker job, but hand-tool skills can give an equally satisfactory result.

I prefer a blunt tail end because it seems to give the plug a slower motion, side to side. This surely would be hard to prove, but I'm convinced. Consequently, the tail end of all my darters are quite blunt rather than sharply tapered. Each plugmaker should experiment to develop a shape which he believes is best.

4. On the head end mark a circle 1/8-inch from the outside of the dowel. Also, draw a line around the dowel 1½-inches from the end.

5. Ever so carefully, cut away the excess material between these two markings. At the close of this operation, the taper should blend with the body of the dowel 1¾-inch from the front edge.

The resultant taper is often missed



as one looks at a finished darter. In a Gibbs, particularly in the shorter models, it is barely noticeable. Once again, I do not know how critical this taper is to the plug's effectiveness, but the darter does not appear to work as well without it.

6. Draw a center line the length of the plug. This line is extremely important because all hook hangers and the balancing weight are positioned by it.

7. Mark the positions of the belly-hook hangers and the balancing weight on this line. Drill ¼" holes one-half inch deep at each of these locations. Redrill the balancing weight hole with a 3/8" bit.

8. Position the dowel in the diving plane jig. Lock in place with a small dowel pin through the tubing and into the front hanger hole. It does help to pad the front inside edge of the jig with a couple of layers of masking tape to take up the slack created by the front taper.

9. Mark the outline of the diving plane by following the full course of the jig with a pencil. Remove and cut away the excess wood. Smooth in a rounding fashion the flow of the diving plane into the top body of the darter. When complete, it should almost imperceptibly meet the body 2-5/8-inch from the front edge of the plug.

10. Lay out and cut the lip angle according to plans. File and sand to exact measurements. The outer edge of this lip must meet the extended center line.

11. Draw a center line the length of the diving plane and lay out the position of the eye hanger which will be used for line attachment. Drill ¼" hole to the proper depth.

If, in the drilling, the edge of this hole breaks away the front edge of the diving lip, the damage can readily be repaired. Crease a length of masking tape in half lengthwise and force it into the lip angle. When the head hanger is epoxied in place, the epoxy will fill the broken area. Later it can be filed to the original exact angle.

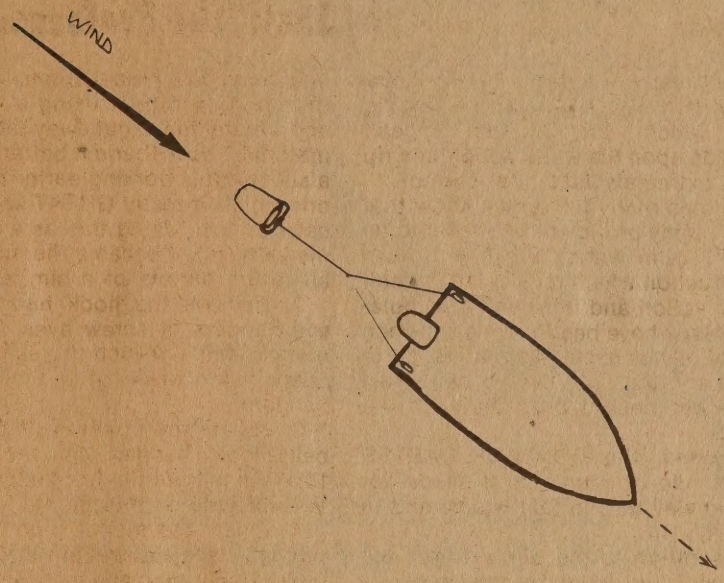
12. Finish by epoxying all hangers and the balancing weight in place.

These directions offer much challenge and call for a good deal of TLC. If a beginning was made with twenty-five pieces of dowel, the man new to darter construction now has possibly fifteen complete darters. These should be sufficient to last an entire season for anyone using fifteen-pound test mono or better.

The MONTAUK DARTER will carry heavy hooks. I arm mine with two 4/0 Mustad trebles, 3X heavy—naturally barbless, and a 5/0 Siwash in the tail—also barbless! This does constitute one problem. The front treble at times hangs up on the lip. It can be remedied by using a 3/0 treble on the front belly-hook hanger. I like the 4/0 and accept an occasional hang-up.

On the tail hook is wrapped a very small amount of polar bear hair. This is now an endangered species and legitimate hair is almost impossible to find. If the reader decides he must have polar bear hair, he can get it the way I have. Get next to a girl with a rug and sneak out a handful after each visit.

Tip of the Week



When drifting too fast due to the effects of a strong wind, throw a sea anchor overboard to slow your boat down. Pails with a few holes in the bottom, or canvas buckets, are among the substitutes the boatman can utilize for commercially-offered sea anchors.

Submitted by John G. Naslonsky, Wantagh, N.Y.

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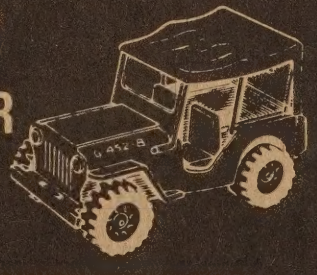

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BY FRED GUARDINEER

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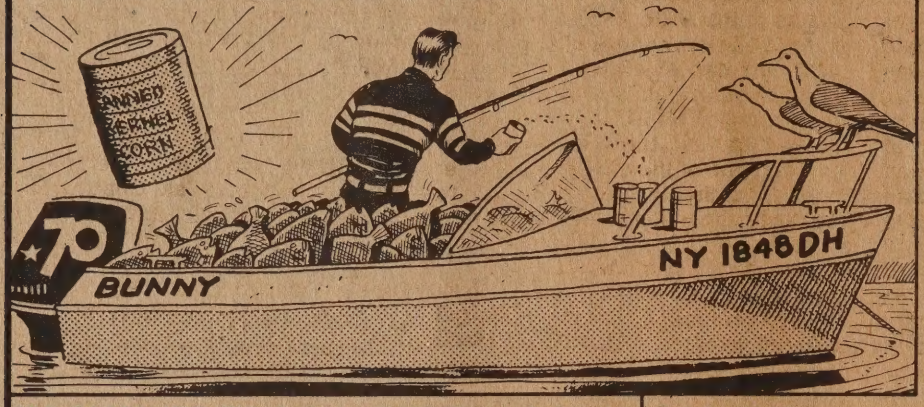

CORN, CHEESE & SPONGE

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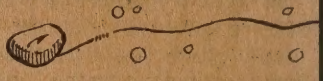

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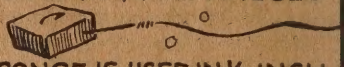

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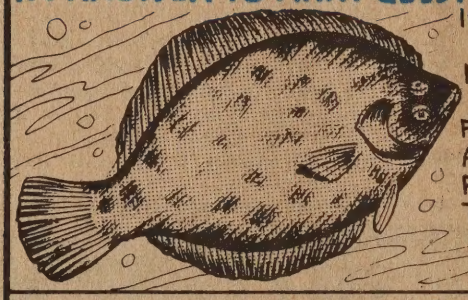

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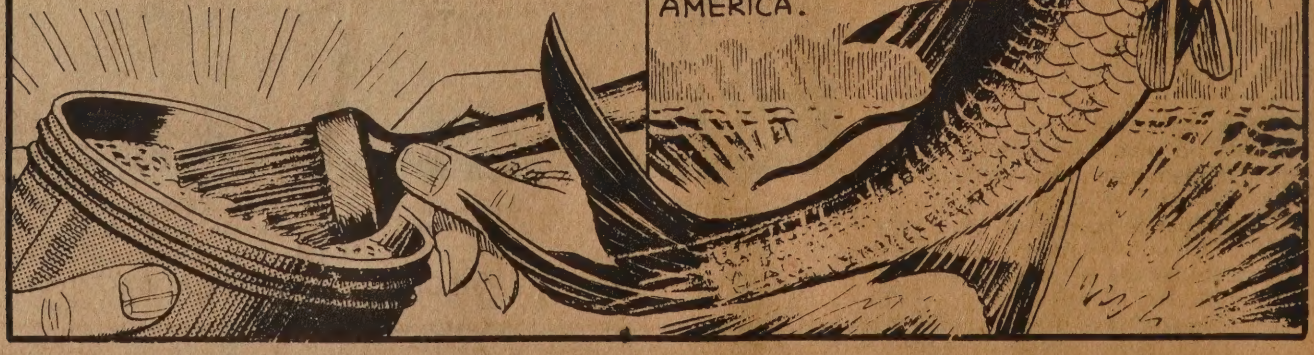

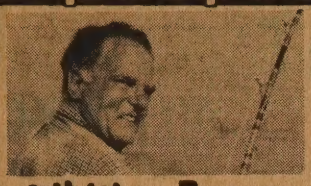

Whiting Evans

The Casting Gourmet

How to make a good Hollandaise sauce, among other things.

Many years ago I had the great pleasure of meeting one of the world's greatest chefs—Henri Charpentier. At one time he was the Chef at the Palais Royale in Parris; another time he was Chef at one of London's most famous hostelries. Here in the United States, he was Chef at the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center, and later on had the same position in one of San Francisco's most notable hotels. On Long Island many oldsters will remember "Henri's Restaurant" in Lynbrook, New York.

Henri was not only a magnificent cook; he was a great philosopher of life. During his latter years he was responsible for the publication of a book called *"Life A La Henri"* in which he told of his life history and disclosed the secrets of his many superlative gastronomic works of art. Probably best remembered for his invention, "Crepes Souzette," he also was known for his delicious lobster neuberg.

In his book Henri describes the best way to boil a lobster. In essence, he says to put yourself into the soul of the lobster and imagine that you are being placed in a pot of boiling water. Naturally, he says, all of your muscles would contract and you would die with your muscles as hard as rocks. On the other hand, imagine that you are placed in a pot of cool, slightly salted water. Then, as the the water became warmer and warmer, you would be lulled to sleep and by the time you expired your muscles would be relaxed and tender. So, by all means, be sure to cook your lobster as Henri suggests!

And so—to the neuberg. Preferably in a chafing dish, place a piece of butter the size of an egg. Melt the butter over a low flame and add one-half teaspoon salt, ½-teaspoon black pepper, 1 level tablespoon paprika, several dashes of cayenne or red pepper and the chopped pieces of the cooked lobster meat. Add about 4 ounces of sherry wine. Constantly stirring, cook the mixture until the spices and wine have penetrated the meat of the lobster. Now you can turn off the heat.

In a separate bowl pour about one half-pint heavy cream in which you beat the yolks of 3 eggs. When ready to serve, turn on your fire again and add the cream mixture. As it becomes hotter it will gradually thicken and you will have a neuberg to titillate the palates of the gods. (As an alternative to the crean and egg yolks, you can use a half-can of evaporated milk in which you've mixed a heaping tablespoon of flour.)

Now let us turn to the tasty flounder, one of the most sought-after members of the finny tribe. Be sure to keep only those large enough to filet and skin. This recipe is one I came across in a newspaper about forty years ago. It is called *Filet de sole de mon pere Monbiot.* Take two filets and between them, as in a sandwich, place one slim slice of Bermuda onion and one bay leaf. Cover both filets with melted butter, then cover them with bread crumbs in which you have mixed some finely chopped parsely. Place the sandwiched filets in a flat cooking pan and sprinkle some Parmesan cheese on the top layer. Now place the pan in your broiler so that the fish is about eight inches away from the overhead flame. Cook for about eight minutes. Put filets on a platter and cover with Hollandaise sauce. While one portion of *sole Monbiot* is all that one of good breeding should consume, it arouses regret that one has but one esophagus.

Here is a simple and sure way to make Hollandaise sauce. Place a small ceramic bowl over a pot in which you boil water. Have about two quarter-pound pieces of butter or oleo which are cold and hard alongside you. Using a silver mixing spoon (or one of plastic), first melt a piece of butter about 1½ inches long, and when melted add the yolk of two eggs. Contantly stirring, add another piece of butter and keep on adding butter until it is all blended with the yolks. Add the juice of one-half a lemon plus a teaspoon of paprika. The result is a creamy yellow sauce.

Another way to prepare the lowly flounder is to boil their filets in a dry white wine (such as Chablis) for a couple of minutes and then serve them covered with a mixture of sour cream in which you have blended finely-chopped chives.

Cooking Dogfish or Sand Sharks

In these days of high food prices, it seems to me a very wasteful practice—when out in a party boat cod-fishing—to see the number of doggies clopped over the noggin and thrown back into the ocean. I know; I've done it myself. However, I remember when I was a boy of 9 or 10, a friend and myself put a small, live "chogsy" or cunner on a hook fastened to the end of a hand line. A small rock served as the sinker. We cast this out in the evening from a beach on Long Island Sound. The next morning when we hauled in the line we had a good-sized dogfish. We cleaned and skinned it and brought the firm, white meat to the cook in my friend's home. She boiled the meat in salted water and served it with a cream sauce in which she had mixed some chopped hard-boiled eggs. It was delicious and tasted just like halibut.

Another way of serving doggies is to remove its one bone and then skin the fish. Soak the meat for a couple of hours in salt water. After cutting it

(*Continued on page 13.*)

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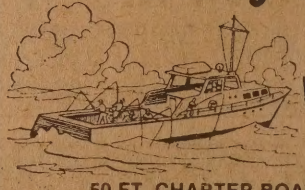

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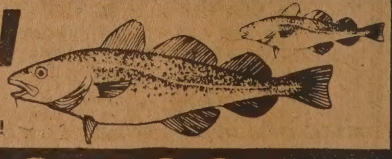

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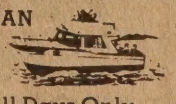

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IMPORTANT NOTICE
Must Act Now!

There is a commercial fishing group presently working very hard to kill the Striped Bass Gamefish Bill now in the Assembly Committee up in Albany.

Striper anglers must move now and should waste no time in sending a letter or mailgram to Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut, Assembly Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12224 urging immediate passage of the Striped Bass Bill No. A5502. If you wish to telephone, the number is (518) 472-3100.

On Tuesday morning, April 22, 1975, striped bass anglers can head off a move by East End commercial fishermen to scuttle the Striped Bass Bill. They are going to try to have the Suffolk County Legislature pass a resolution opposing the measure.

The only way to counteract the commercial fishermen's efforts is to make a stronger showing by sports-fishermen.

The meeting is scheduled for 10:30 A.M., April 22, 1975 at the County Center, Main Building in Riverhead. Try to get there by 9:00 A.M. to register your strong opposition.

For further information, call Fred Hodgson (516) WE 1-3049.

George Henderson and friend, Tom Elwood, with 36 flounder they took near buoy 42 in Moriches Bay from a rental skiff out of Seatuck Cove Marina.

(*Continued from page 4.*)

recreational facility that lends balance to our hectic way of life in this metropolitan region. It goes without saying that they should also be involved in trying to protect what we now have.

The statistics certainly have value to us, but you might find that a few more are vital to this area. Consider, for example, how many jobs are necessary to support all our recreational activities; how many households owe their livelihoods to Long Island playland? What is the dollar-value of utilizing our island's resources? And how many dollars are spent by fishermen, boaters, swimmers, and all the others in the pursuit of their sports? Estimates have been made; sheer guesswork more "swag" without the "s," I'll bet! But where are the economic impact studies that should accompany the environmental studies? More humans are deciding how Long Island is to be used, or abused, in the future. What is their supportive data? Or are some people making decisions that are personally expedient and financially rewarding to them alone, rather than making those decisions that are "right" for most of us!

Food for thought, friends.

Glenn Ostard

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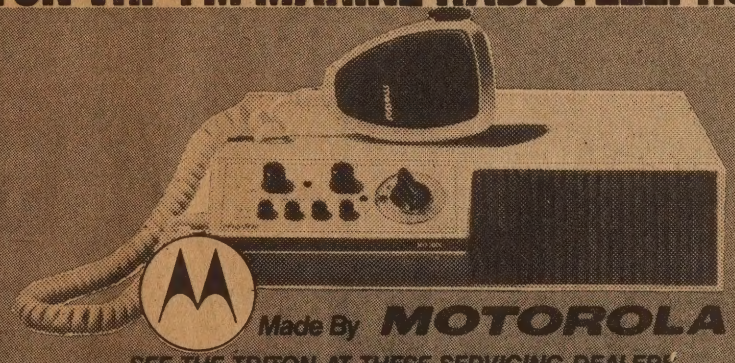

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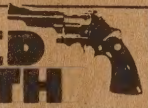

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The **Viking Star** has been doing very well with the cod off Block Island and at Southwest Ledge. The fish are averaging 10 to 12 lbs., with large hake and pollack mixed in the catch. Don Heller of Carll Place took the pool on Saturday with a 60 lb. white hake. Sunday was good with over 300 cod coming over the rails and two snowshoe flounders.

Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin III** reported an average catch of 5 to 6 cod per man with a few people baging up to 10 or 12 on the weekend. A few blackfish, pollack and snowhoes mixed in. The cod are red, sign of the start of the spring run. Sand eels are all over the area including Montauk Lake and the fish are spitting up small herring.

Capt. Brad Glas of the **Helen II** said that the spring run has its foot in the door. The cod are biting hot and heavy through the ebb tide and slows to a pick during the flood. Fishing is southeast of Block Island in water 55 to 100 feet wherever there are rockpiles. Pollack schoolies 5 to 10 lbs. and blackfish 12 to 14 lbs. are mixed in. Capt. Brad said that he is waiting for the first weekend in June to begin open boat fishing for Montauk fluke.

Ronnie at the **Gone Fishing Marina** reports excellent catches of flounder averaging 1½ lbs. with plenty of two pounders and one three are coming out of Montauk Lake. Boats are averaging 30 to 50 fish each in a few hours. Outside, private boats are loading up at the Midway buaoy on codfish. One boat took 25 cod up to 20 lbs. Fish are starting at Great Eastern and should be moving into Washington Shoals in a short time. Ronnie said that the stations excellent launching ramp will open on weekends at 6AM for private boatmen.

A party of 3 anglers, headed by Jeff Gernett, took 51 cod, largest 58 and 31 lbs., on April 7th aboard Capt. Dick Vigilant's Triton II out of Montauk.

SHINNECOCK

Altenkirch Tackle reports good flounder all sizes up to 2½lbs. are being taken in the canal when the locks are closed. Flounder are also starting to wake up in Shinnecock Bay.

Capt. Clark Bellows Jr. has been fishing off South Jamesport with the **Capt. Clark** and reports excellent results. On Saturday, 13 fares too 172 flounder averaging 1¼ to 2 lbs. Sunday's wind only saw the catch drop to 120 fish. David Dorf of Long Beach took hi-hook honors with 23 fish.

SAG HARBOR

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. reported that the **Capt. Clark II** has found the flounder action to be improving

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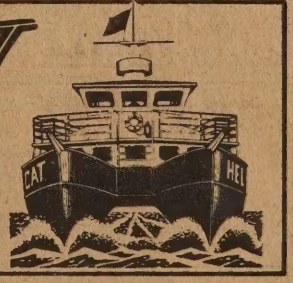

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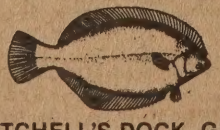

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steadily. Shelter Island, South Ferry and off Cedars Point Lighthouse are all hot spots. Fish are averaging 1¾ lbs., and on Saturday a 3 pounder came over the rails.

Helen at **Noyac Marina** said the friendly rivalry between Mike Albert and Bill Fales resulted in 137 flounders for Mike on Saturday and 113 on Sunday for Bill. All these fish were keepers of 10" or longer. Both fished Moyac Creek with worms and mussels.

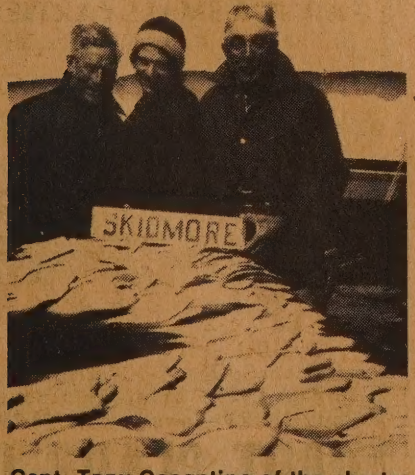
MORICHES BAY

Flounder catches showed a wide disparity over the weekend, according to **Hi-Way Fishing Station.** On Saturday, some boats had 4 fish while others had 200. Sunday the range was 4 to a mere 70. Best areas have been the C.G. shack off Hart's Cove, buoy 39 and down east towards Westhampton. Chumming with mussels and bloodworm and red-dyed clams produce on outgoing water. Fish are all sizes up to 2 lbs. 13 oz.

L&M Marine Rentals said that the flounder action was good on Saturday and Sunday, and one man took home 35 keepers. Bloodworms and mussel for bait, no chum.

Nancy of **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reported catches of 20 to 90 flounder are being taken south of buoy 43, southwest of buoy 39 and off Haven's Point. Chumming with mussels is a must on incoming water. Red-dyed clams and bloodworms are taking their toll of flounder ½ to 1½ lbs. Throwback ration is now one for one.

The **Seatuck Cove Fishing Staion** called to report catches of 50 to 60 flounder per boat are being taken between buoys 46 and 50. Fish are averaging 1 to 3 lbs., largest for the weekend was a whopping 2 lbs. 9 oz. Outgoing water with mussel or corn chum and bloodworm or mussel bait.



Capt. Tony Cosentino of the charter boat Wahoo III, Tony's son, Skipper, and friend Barney Faruzza went fishing from Skidmore's Fishing Station in East Moriches and caught 195 keeper flounder southwest of buoy 39 on worms and mussel chum.

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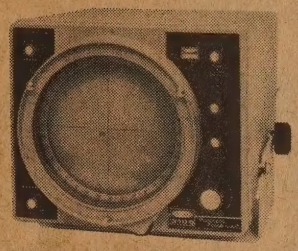

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Happy angler, Dick Rubin of Merrick, called in to say that he and his five friends took two rental boats out of **Frank's Fishing Station**, and

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working buoy 14, took 247 fat flounders up to 2¼ lbs. The baits were bloodworms and mussels, with chum consisting of mussels, clam and corn. Outgoing water was the best.

MASTIC BEACH

Keenan's Fishing Station reports flounder action very good, particularly around buoy 20 on incoming and outgoing water and at the change, on bloods, with mussel chum. The fish are averaging 1 lb.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station reported that all boats were out on Saturday and Sunday and all brought back flounders. Twenty to thirty fish per boat was the average. The hot spots were off Greenpoint and the flats off Heckscher. Bloodworms are best for bait. Chum with mussels and stir up the bottom, advises Dennis. Mike Andrizak had 154 fish fishing east of

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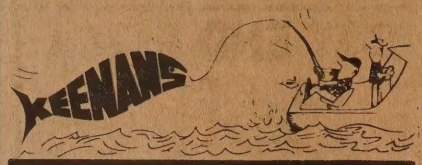

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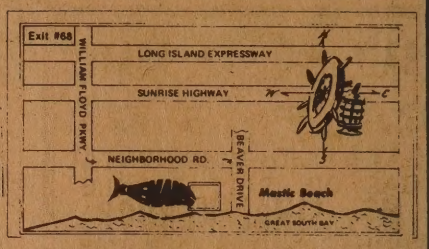

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buoy 28 and 29, all on outgoing water.

Young's Fishing Station reports that Joe Delaney, Ed Jellen and Bill Farrell of Sperry had 80 flounder between buoy 30 and Greenpoint on mussel. They fished outgoing tide and used mussel chum. The fish went to 2 lbs. and there were only 3 throwbacks. This action took place on Sunday. On Saturday the boats did fairly well, but not as good as on Sunday.

CAPTREE

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy V** said that while fishing isn't the greatest, it's not that bad. Fishing has been spread over the flats from Heckscher Park to Patchogue. The water is still cold and the flounder seem to be back in the mud again. Each drop of the anchor only produces a few fish and then drops dead until you make another drop. Capt. Speedy said that he actually made three drops without a single flattie coming over the rail. Shallow water in the flats are best but you have to move around a lot. Ebb tide in the afternoon has been best. Score for Saturday was 10 to 15 fish per man and dropped to 3 to 10 fish a man on Sunday during the uncomfortable winds.

The **Capt. Ben Litwin** reported good flounder on Saturday and poor fishing on Sunday in the Heckscher area. Average per man on Sunday was a dismal 6 or 7 fish.

The **Capt. Joseph Fleet** has been having fair to good flounder action off LaSalle University around buoy 30. The average catch has been up to 15

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fish and the water is still murky. Small herring have been seen in the bay, but no reports of weakfish seen or caught.

The **Capt. Richie** called flounder fishing tough going off Point of Woods and Heckscher. It's been a slow pick of a few fish in each spot with the best fishing in the afternoon.

On Saturday, the **Lady Ann** had the Grumman charter on board and fair fishing took place. Eight to ten fish per man was the average. On Sunday, the fishing was slow all day but in the afternoon 10 to 15 fish per man were taken southeast of buoy 30, east of Heckscher, at the end of the ebb tide. Bloodworms were best in the bait department. The **Capt. Joseph** experienced this good fishing too. One fare had five double headers. All the fish are big, averaging 1 to 1¼ lbs. There are no runts.

BAY SHORE

Big George at **Starfish Marine** gave a report of excellent catches of flounder between Lindenhurst and the Babylon Cut on worms with no chum. One customer took 60 flounder and one 4 lb. blackfish in this area. Local gill netters report no weakfish but hoards of bunker are showing up in the nets set in the bay.

BABYLON

Mario at the **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** reports his boats brought in about 500 flounders on Saturday and 150 on Sunday. Try Grass and Oak Islands using worms for bait, mussel chum, on incoming water. The fish are averaging ¾ to 1 lb.

Charlie's Fishing Station tells us that their boats scored well with bloods in the East-West Channel and Fox Creek. Chumming wasn't required. The average size is 1¼ lbs. and the average per boat is about 90 fish. High incoming tide is best.

Augie's Bait & Tackle reports that on Saturday, John Semft fished a rubber shrimp east of the Captree Bridge on the south side and bagged 24 **weakfish** of 1 to 3 lbs. This action took place on the top of the incoming tide while casting and jigging. There is good flounder action in the Grass Island-Babylon Cut area on bloods and mussel chum. Two hours on either side of the high is best.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait & Tackle reports that Squaw Island and West Island had only fair to good flounder fishing this past week. The fish went from ½ to 1½ lbs. From Squaw Island to the drawbridge, it was a lot better and the fish were bigger. George says is the fishing is slow or spotty, MOVE, don't stay. Chumming is a necessity, fellas, all over. Try the southwest edge of Fort Neck Point for excellent results. The fish run to 2½ lbs. Worm-mussel combo baits are hot and a moving outgoing tide is best.

LINDENHURST

Duke's Bait & Tackle reports Saturday was hot at the Amityville Cut. Hit shallow water. Fish from ¾ to 1½ lbs. are taking bloods and chum. The high and three hours thereafter is best. On Sunday, the Oak Island area was productive in schoal water.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait & Tackle informs us that Squaw Island, Florence Beach and Four Corners and West Island are giving forth fish on outgoing water. The best baits are bloodworms and red clam. Chumming isn't necessary. The fish are running ½ to 1¼ lbs. and they are hitting in flurries.

Pop's Fishing Station reports excellent fishing at Squaw Island, Four Corners at the drains on moving water on bloods and mussel chum. The sizes are mixed and the average is 50 to 100 fish per boat.

Dell's Fishing Station reports that oon Sunday the Donovan family of Huntington got 35 flounder between the first and second Wantagh bridge on mussel and dyed clam. The fish went from 1 to 1¼ lbs. Cliff McIntyre and group, from the Bronx, had 30 flounders between buoys 19 and 20 using worms and mussel chum. All action took place on outgoing tide.

MERRICK

George at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that Saturday saw Broad Creek Channel as the best spot for good sized fish on bloods and mussel baits. Chumming helps and outgoing tide is best.

The infamous **G. Korn** has been spotted off Squaw Island in a green runabout, wearing his famous green poopkie hat. A sportsman to the core, Korn not only takes the barbs off his

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hooks, but he also fishes without bait on the de-barbed hooks. "I'm a purist," explains G.K.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** had excellent blackfishing on Saturday, with between 350-400 fish coming over the rail. The biggest was a 9¾ lb. flounder taken by Carl Stoltze of Queens. Sunday was equally great with 23 fares taking 7-12 blacks a man. A few cod and ling were mixed in with the catch. Blacks to 5 lbs. and cod to 11 lbs. were the weights. The **Starstream** will switch over to mackerel as soon as they're within reach.

The **Capt. Al** took over 400 flounder on Saturday. All were good fat fish. The same action took place on Sunday for about 35 fares. Al fished the State Channel for fish up to 2½ lbs. Bloods worked best on the first of the flood and low slack. Al says he will stay with the flounder until the mackerel show, then will switch over.

Capt. Johnny A of the **Jack VI** had fair flounder fishing on Sunday, with 12 fish hi-hook, at Squaw Island and Scow Creek. John will stay with the flounders and not bother the mackerel population when it shows.

The **Empire** had good flounder activity at Four Corners on Saturday,

A whiting of 8 lbs. 3 ozs. was caught by Joe Mason of Brooklyn aboard the Amberjack IV out of Sheepshead Bay.

at the change of the tide, on bloodworms. Several double headers were taken, too.

us that all their boats are returning with 3 and 4 dozen flounders per boat. These fish are ¾ to 1 lb. in size and they are being caught at Haunts Creek, High Flats Drain and Swift Creek. Chumming with mussels is necessary and the baits used are clams and bloodworms. The incoming tide is best. FLASH- clams get the bigger fish.

Hudson Point Fishing Station reports that Bruno bagged 15 reluctant flatties on cold Sunday using worm and mussel baits. Bruno bounced all around and there was no particular hot spot.

ISLAND PARK

Capt. Bill of the **Ginnie Mae** reports tough picking on Saturday and Sunday due to the cold weather, however, he ended up with a fair catch working the oyster beds at Woodmere and in Reynolds Channel. Hi-hook was 30 fish on Saturday, with 12 fish per man the average. The fish went to 1 lb., with bloods best bait on outgoing water.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported that quite a few boats went out over the weekend. Anglers did well on Saturday using mussel chum and worms on the hook. The hot spots were buoys 18 and 19, along with North Channel and Cinder Creek.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Henning's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing at Duck Point and in the Woodmere Channel. Some flounders were taken in Bannister Creek. Henning's reported that the flounders were of medium size but thick. Buoy 8 also had good flounder activity, however, these flounder were larger and thinner. The flounders are taking worms and mussels as bait and are biting best before and during the change of either tide. Whiting were near buoy 4 on Friday and Saturday.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Freddie at **Mike's Tackle** reports good blackfishing. The **Pilot** started it off by fishing Sea Bright and coming in loaded with blacks from 1 to 10 lbs.

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Most of the fish average 3 or 4 lbs. This was followed by the **Parable** fishing the East Wrecks with equal results. Whiting fishing is very good at the BA buoy as well as 17 Fathoms. Flounders were a so-so proposition over the weekend.

Capt. Fred of the **Amberjack** reports very good whiting fishing. There is a steady pick all day long, with ½ to ¾ bag per man. This fishing slowed a little on Sunday, due to the temperature and wind. Joe Mason, who caught the huge whiting of 8 lbs. 3 ozs. (see photo in this issue), won a $77.00 pool with this monster, then proceeded to lose the $77.00 in a card game on the way in. That's life, Joe.

The **Pilot II** reports very good blackfishing every day. Blacks are Capt. Tom's specialty, guys. He knows where they're at. On Tuesday, Jim McDonald bagged 56 fish.

Ronald Urbanski with 10 trout taken from the Nissequogue River in Smithtown on opening day of the trout season. Largest was a 14 inch brown trout and all were taken on worms.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

The **Hel-Cat** out of Groton, Conn. has had very good spring cod fishing, on clam, south of Block Island. The cod run to 16 lbs. and the pollack and blacks which are mixed in run from 5 to 8 lbs. The average bag is 10 fat fish.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Art White's Bait Shop reported the flounder fishing was pretty good over the weekend. The boats have been fishing Flanders Bay. The 1 to 2 lb. fish were hitting worms or mussels, with catches as high as 150 per boat. On Monday the boats were fishing at South Ferry and Sag Harbor.

SOUTHOLD

The **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** reported the flounder fishing is much improved. Although the spots are scattered from Jessups Neck, Cedar Point and Coecles Harbor to East Marion and Town Creek, all are producing flounders. The creeks hold the larger concentrations of fish, however, these fish are smaller. The open water has fewer but larger fish. Mussel chum is a must, with mussel bait outfishing the worms.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reported there was some very good fishing west of Robins Island. Dennis Caggiano of Maspeth, N.Y. had 34 flounders to 1¾ lbs. Gaspar Teri and son of Brooklyn had 36 fish to 1½ lbs. The anglers fished just before high tide and the outgoing using worms and mussel chum. The Rose's Grove area had one brave soul who fished for a couple of hours in the winds on Sunday. He had 10 flounders with some going to 2 lbs.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

It is still a little cold for good flounder fishing, according to **Ralph's Fishing Station**. There have been 3 or 4 flounders of 1 lb. or better that have been taken both inside and outside the harbor.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports there were quite a few small flounders of ½ to 1 lb. being caught at the entrance to Setauket Harbor. On Sunday, Walter Yakel and three friends braved the northwest winds at buoy 11 to catch 1½ and 3 lb. flounders. Heavy chumming with mussel and sandworms on the hook brought in 42 flounders.

NORTHPORT

The **Chainlocker Bait & Tackle** reported the flounders are nice and healthy both off the dock and in the bay. Striper fishing has been pretty good off Crab Meadow Beach. These fish are not too large but they provide good action.

Capt. Pete Novellino of the **Jennie Three** said that the fish were scattered around Northport Harbor and off Duck Island. Flounder are averaging 1 to 1¼ lbs. and were fair on Saturday and good on Sunday through all tides.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready Fleet** reports really good flat fishing, with 24 keepers a man the average. On Saturday, Hanju Tuzer of Norway had a 2 lb. 2 oz. pool winner. Sunday saw a 1¾ lb. fish take the pool for Gary Scarrelli of Yonkers, N.Y. Capt. Don says his striper program is bringing fish to the boat alright, however, they've been lost at the boat.

Ron Ferrara of **Ronnie's Bait & Tackle** of Huntington Station reports that flounder action at Duck Island has been slow and that the best action is at the south shore of Huntington Bay, from Winnecoma to Centerport Harbor, on sandworms and mussel chum. Moving water is needed and outgoing is the best of all. At Crab Meadow, bass are hitting mornings and evenings. The hot lure seems to be the sinker Rebel or sandworms on the bottom.

GLEN COVE

There is some flounder activity, reported John at **Glen Cove Sports**. These fish go to ¾ lbs. and you must hunt for them. Warmer weather will bring larger fish, of course. The striper casters are really working the beaches but they are not talking.

PORT WASHINGTON

Moreland's Bait & Tackle held a flounder fishing derby over the weekend and Tony Providente of the Manhasset Bay Sportsman Club won it with 39 flounders. These fish were mostly ½ pounders and they took worms during moving water.

CITY ISLAND

There are lots of nice flounders, says **Jack's Bait & Tackle**. The flounders are running from ¾ to 1 lb. and they are taking sandworms at Orchard Beach. Some boats have from 18 to 22 fish in just a few hours.

GOIN' FISHING?

Read

The Long Island FISHERMAN

TIDE TABLES

ON → / DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM
4/17 THURSDAY	12:02	12:46	1:37	2:26	3:25	3:57	3:44	4:23
4/18 FRIDAY	12:59	1:47	2:38	3:28	4:20	4:55	4:42	5:24
4/19 SATURDAY	2:02	2:51	3:45	4:31	5:21	6:01	5:47	6:26
4/20 SUNDAY	3:07	3:58	4:53	5:36	6:29	7:15	6:52	7:29
4/21 MONDAY	4:19	5:02	5:59	6:32	7:48	8:33	7:57	8:26
4/22 TUESDAY	5:25	6:02	6:58	7:27	9:08	9:37	8:57	9:23
4/23 WEDNESDAY	6:23	6:55	7:56	8:17	10:11	10:32	9:53	10:14
4/24 THURSDAY	7:16	7:42	8:48	9:06	11:07	11:23	10:45	11:04

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration

	A.M Minor	A.M Major	P.M. Minor	P.M. Major
4/17	10:00	4:20	10:30	4:40
4/18	10:55	5:15	11:20	5:45
4/19	11:55	6:15	—	6:40
4/20	12:25	7:05	12:55	7:30
4/21	1:15	7:50	1:45	8:20
4/22	2:00	8:40	2:35	9:05
4/23	2:50	9:25	3:30	9:55
4/24	3:35	10:15	4:10	10:45

PHASES OF THE MOON

4-11	4-18	4-25	4-3
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4-6	5:38	6:28
4-12	5:29	6:34
4-18	5:20	6:40
4-24	5:11	6:46